

# Biathletes Hold Media Day

Russ Riggs

*Courier Staff*

The United States and Ukrainian National Biathlon teams held a few workout sessions for the media last weekend. The event, held at Soldier Hollow, was designed to help the media understand the biathlon. Activities included roller skiing and shooting, photo opportunities, and demonstrations. For the athletes, however, this was more than just a chance to smile pretty for the camera. In addition to 20 plus hours of combo training a week, the athletes were tested on a VO2 machine—a device designed to measure oxygen consumption and heart rate.

Biathletes also had a chance to do some laser shooting, a high tech way of measuring their trigger technique. Bill Spencer, a member of the first United States biathlon team and a former Olympic competitor, said technology has definitely changed the sport.

"The sport has changed considerably with metal targets. We shot at paper targets before and you wouldn't get the results until later," he said. "Today, it's much more spectator and media friendly." Spencer is now the Deputy Chief of Competition for the biathlon, and was instrumental in picking Soldier Hollow



to host this Olympic event. "This site is excellent," Spencer said. "We had a lack of snow last year but that won't be a problem with snow-making machines. When completed, it should be as good a site as any." Adding to the stress of the biathlon was the soaring heat in Wasatch County. Although the Americans handled the sun alright, the same couldn't be said for the visiting Ukrainians. "The Ukrainians are the first international athletes here in

Soldier Hollow," said Jerry Kokesh, development director for the United States biathlon. "They love the place, except for the heat. They've never been in a place that's over 80 degrees."

For United States biathlete Jeremy Teela of Park City, it's not the heat that makes the event rough—it's having enough stamina to compete in such a tough sport. "Cross Country skiing is

**BIATHLETE** continued on page A4

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homes, and/or destroy a golf course and a planned amphitheater's parking lot in West Valley.



Commuter rail gets thumbs-up from Wasatch Front residents between Brigham City to Farmington as long as it is "fast and cheap," according to a poll conducted by Ogden's Standard-Examiner. Two thirds of those polled said they were willing to pay a quarter-cent sales tax to fund commuter rail.



DARE further denigrates its reputation by sensationalizing a presentation for junior high school students in Centerville. Kids are invited to grasp handguns and point them at a video screen while making split-second decisions whether to fire on moving images of potential attackers. City Councilwoman Nancy Smith introduces whiff of sanity by opposing plan.



Case of "He Said/She Said" between former Utah District Court Judge Michael Glassman and Sabrina Montgomery (party to a custody dispute) plays itself out in recently released court papers. Montgomery says Glassmann offered to influence custody decision if she would date him; Glassmann denies it and says he only phoned her once. 2nd District Judge Brent West rules Glassman's alleged actions didn't taint custody verdict.



Utahn Gene Fullmer, whose rough-and-tumble pugilistic career as erstwhile world-middleweight champion in the 1950s redefined the descriptive phrase "cauliflower ears," gets a beautiful payback in new \$7.5 million Gene Fullmer Fitness and Recreation Center dedicated near West Jordan Park.



Eureka! They've found it. And it's not gold, but dangerous levels of lead discovered by the Central Utah Department of Health in soil and blood samples taken in the old Utah mining town, 50 miles southwest of Provo. The contamination could qualify the town as Utah's 15th Superfund site.



The Utah Starzz, the state's WNBA basketball franchise, missed the playoffs for the fourth straight

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Carbon, Garfield

very demanding on strength, and shooting is just the opposite—it's very mental. That's the challenge of the sport," he said. In Europe, the biathlon is the most watched sport on television. Thousands of spectators will brave the piercing cold to watch athletes compete in this unique event.

"The competition between athletes is great, and I love the crowds," Teela said. "It's great when you go to Europe and have 20,000 Germans cheering against you." For Teela, who is originally from Anchorage, Alaska, it wasn't huge crowds, competing against world class athletes, or the thought of Olympic gold that drew him to the biathlon.

"It was a high school sport where I am from," he said. "And there was always cute girls there." Cute girls or not, Teela and his teammates have plenty of training to do before the first



A roller-skier leaves the open road road behind him.

World Cup in Hochfilzen, Austria this December. Hochfilzen will be the first chance for the athletes to qualify for the 2002 Olympic games. **W**



The women prep for their runs.

filed on his own, it also will cost him money that he doesn't have, even though this is what is the likely solution. Baker feels his ex-wife may also be trying to keep the kids in Arizona for six months, which will allow them to set up residency. After that it will become a matter for Arizona officials which will cost Baker more money. "I think she's stonewalling me," said Baker. "It's spite because she lost in court and doesn't want me to see them."

Lowell reports that Carol Ann Baker may have some good reasons for not allowing Baker to see his kids. There is evidence that the two boys were abused, and she claims it was Baker and another unnamed suspect that were the abusers. The two young boys claim that it was them that did it as well, but Lowell does say that this is a common complaint in custody battles.

"I'm not going to pursue a criminal case and get this man his kids back if this is the case," said Lowell.

Though complaints like this are common and may or may not be alleged, Baker's attorney, Mark Smedley is still willing to do what he can.

"I want to help Charles and get this thing resolved," said Smedley. "We will see what we can do about this." Baker has tried to call Carol Ann, but has been met with threats and ridicule. Carol Ann left with an unidentified man and the man in question has threatened Baker with being charged with stalking and will prosecute if the calls continue. This makes Baker's situation even more difficult.

Baker mentions that Carol Ann has five children from a previous marriage that have been left behind and are living with their father in Park City. Baker is unsure why she didn't take them as well. **22**



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